

# DFS QUARTERLY

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES • STEPHEN D. COAN, STATE FIRE MARSHAL • VOL. 9 • ISSUE 1 • FALL 2004

## Romney Signs Into Law Landmark Fire Safety Legislation

On August 17, 2004, Governor Mitt Romney signed into law the most comprehensive fire safety legislation since the Cocoanut Grove fire in 1942, keeping his promise to take action to prevent tragedies like the 2003 Station nightclub fire in Rhode Island.

"I am proud to sign the most far-reaching overhaul of the state's fire safety laws in over sixty years," said Romney. "There's an old saying that those who don't learn the lessons of history are doomed to repeat them. In Massachusetts, we learned tremendously important lessons from the tragedy of The Station nightclub fire."

The Station nightclub fire occurred on February 20, 2003 in West Warwick, Rhode Island. With 100 dead and almost 200 injured, it was one of the deadliest fires in the United States since the 1977 Southgate, Kentucky Beverly Hills Supper Club fire that claimed 165 lives. The worst nightclub

fire was November 28, 1942 in Boston, Massachusetts at the Cocoanut Grove, where 492 died after paper decorations caught fire.

On April 3, 2003, Governor Mitt Romney directed the Secretary of

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*Gov. Romney signs legislation*



### From the Desk of the Fire Marshal

*Stephen D. Coan*

On August 17, 2004, Governor Mitt Romney signed into law landmark fire safety legislation. It includes the most sweeping changes to fire prevention requirements since the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations was created in the wake of the Cocoanut Grove fire in 1942. With its passage, the administration and the Legislature provide incredible tools to the fire service. The requirement to retrofit sprinklers into existing nightclubs, bars, discotheques, and dancehalls of a certain size is a profound commitment to the victims and families of the Rhode Island nightclub fire to prevent a repeat here in Massachusetts. As Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts President David LaFond said at the signing ceremony, "not on our watch."

The legislation includes many other important features mentioned in depth in companion articles, but some of the highlights are enhanced criminal penalties for fire and building code violations, creation of a new "ticketing" procedure for code violations, the funding for the Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant Program, restoration of funding for the Student Awareness of Fire Education grant program, funding for fire and building inspector training programs through a portion of all fines, penalties or assessments.

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## Marshal

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### **Lt. Martin Foley New FI&EU Commander**

I am pleased to welcome Lt. Martin Foley as the new commander of the Fire and Explosion Investigation Section. Lt. Foley was promoted from within the ranks of State Police, already part of the DFS family. He was previously head of the Hazardous Devices Unit (HDU) also known as the "bomb squad." Lt. Foley's familiarity with the officers in his unit, with DFS staff, and with the members of the fire service, has made for a smooth transition.

### **Stow Expansion**

The Department of Capital Asset Management has authorized the hiring of an architect to complete the final design of the Stow expansion project. There is funding for the architect's contract for the first phase of construction including infrastructure improvements such as water and sewer and a new administration building, and demolition and removal of all temporary structures.

### **Model Code**

There has been a significant amount of work done by a dedicated group of people with a passionate interest in raising the level of fire prevention regulations in the Commonwealth. I want to recognize that work, their professionalism and enormous effort. We recently held a meeting with all the fire service stakeholders where we reviewed the progress of the Model Code Committee and discussed several concerns as well as options for moving forward. DFS staff are preparing an implementation plan which will be available by January 1, 2005 and which will lay out a course of action going forward. ♦

## Landmark Legislation

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Public Safety to create the Task Force on Fire & Building Safety, and charged the group with making recommendations to improve the safety of public assembly buildings. Last September, Romney praised the work of a 32-member panel, which developed a complete report with recommendations that were implemented in this piece of legislation.

"Massachusetts is a safer state because of their extraordinary dedication and unceasing efforts. I'm honored to stand here today with members of the Fire Safety Task Force, legislators, and relatives of the victims from The Station nightclub tragedy," added Romney.

"Let there be no misunderstanding here, this was a long struggle that turned into a battle and this time the good guys won," said James Gahan, who lost his son at The Station nightclub and member of the taskforce.

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said, "Today we pay lasting tribute to those who lost their lives in West Warwick by the enactment of these sweeping changes to fire safety in Massachusetts. While sprinklers are the cornerstone of this legislation, it goes much further and creates a safety net for the public."

Holyoke Fire Chief David A. LaFond, President, Fire Chiefs' Association of Massachusetts, said, "The Massachusetts fire service pledges to take the tools and resources in this law and do everything in our power to turn the tide of history to prevent a similar tragedy from occurring on our watch."

Thomas G. Gatzunis, Commissioner of Public Safety said, "This legislation is a result of the cooperative efforts of fire and building officials. Together we are working to make Massachusetts a safer place for all who live and visit here." ♦

## Highlights of H. 4550 Chapter 304 of the Acts of 2004

### **Enhanced Sprinkler Requirements**

- Mandates sprinklers in all existing places of assembly designed or used as a nightclub, dance hall, discotheque or bar with occupancy of 100 people or more. Requires that sprinkler design plans be submitted no later than 18 months after the effective date of the new law and that sprinkler installation be completed within three years. Exemptions: places of assembly principally used as a house of worship, restaurant, lecture hall, auditorium and government or educational buildings.
- Requires sprinklers in existing places of assembly that have an occupancy of less than 100 if the owner exceeds the maximum capacity two or more times in one year.
- Mandates sprinklers in a new or substantially altered building that includes a nightclub, dance hall, discotheque or bar with a capacity of 100 persons or more which also contains one or more residential units. Allows the building code to mandate more stringent sprinkler requirements than currently exists.
- Establishes economic incentives and programs to ease the financial burden of sprinkler installation.

### **New procedures**

- Requires establishments that serve alcoholic beverages on the premises to submit, on an annual basis, a fire and building safety certificate of inspection to the Alcohol Beverage Control Commission as a condition to issuance or maintenance of the alcoholic beverage license.
- Creates new non-criminal procedures for local and state fire and building code enforcement officers to issue "code violation notices," similar

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## Highlights of H. 4550

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to a traffic ticket that will notify the owner of the existence of a code violation. This will simplify enforcement efforts and create a paper trail to identify habitual offenders and those who ignore the codes. Violations that are not corrected will result in the suspension or revocation of local or state permits, certificate or licenses associated with the premises.

### **Enhanced Criminal Penalties**

- Establishes specific criminal penalties for certain dangerous conditions in a public assembly building including: blocked ingress or egress; failure to maintain or shutting off fire protection systems; storing flammables or explosives or the use of fireworks or pyrotechnics without a permit, and exceeding occupancy limits. The first infraction will result in a fine of not more than \$5,000 and/or by imprisonment of not more than 2 1/2 years. Subsequent infractions will result in a fine of not more than \$25,000 and/or by imprisonment of up to five years
- Creates a specific statutory crime for those individuals who willfully or wantonly violate provisions of the state building or fire codes when a violation results in significant injury or death. Violations will result in a fine of not more than \$25,000 and/or imprisonment of up to five years.
- Creates enhanced penalties targeted at those individuals who habitually do not comply with orders to correct fire or building code violations. Punishment for violations of this law will be a fine of up to \$1,000 and/or by imprisonment of up to one year.

### **Monetary Assistance**

- Appropriates \$10 million for municipalities to assist in providing firefighter safety equipment as well as help with certain personnel and

overtime expenditures incurred by departments.

- Restores the Student Awareness of Fire Education Program (S.A.F.E.), which helps educate children about fire safety awareness.
- Includes \$450,000 for fire and building inspector training programs. Directs that a portion of all fines, penalties or assessments received under the new code violation procedures be used for local and state enforcement, training and education of code enforcement officers.
- Establishes an accelerated tax depreciation deduction for automatic sprinkler systems required to be installed as a retrofit in existing nightclubs, discotheques, dance halls, and bars.

### **Future Program and Regulatory Development**

- Calls for a special commission to investigate the feasibility of creating a mandatory municipal fire inspector program similar to the statewide program for building inspectors.
- Requires the appropriate boards and commissions to continue to develop regulations and programs relating to nightclub employee fire safety training, enhanced regulation of pyrotechnics, door and egress requirements, and balanced design standards.
- Establishes an advisory council to make recommendations regarding the use of flame retardant building materials. ♦

## Fire Suppression Systems Local Water Connection Fees

In October, 2004, Fire Chief Tim Travers, Whitman Fire-Rescue made a presentation to his local Public Works Commission regarding the importance of retrofitting sprinklers in the places of public assembly required in H. 4550. Recognizing that the local water connection fees can sometimes be a major factor in the cost of installing sprinklers, which are inherently more expensive to install in existing buildings currently in use than in new buildings, he persuaded them to assist in the implementation of H. 4550.

They passed a one-time waiver of the connection fee for some of the existing commercial buildings and places public assembly impacted by this bill.

What follows is his summary to the Board of Selectmen.

My position as Chairman of the Massachusetts Fire Service Commission afforded me the opportunity to serve on the Task Force on Fire & Building Safety created by Governor Mitt Romney in the aftermath of the Station nightclub fire in West Warwick, Rhode Island. The members of the Task Force represented regulatory and enforcement agencies, municipal public safety, the regulated community, and individuals directly affected by the fire itself.

During the deliberations on automatic sprinklers one of the major issues that created a deterrent to installing systems was the exorbitant water connection fees levied by cities and towns to hook-up to their system. In some communities, tens of thousand of dollars.

Serving as the Fire Chief in a small community I appreciated the public safety aspects of the new legislation as well as

***“One major issue was the exorbitant water connection fees”***

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## Guidance to Fire Officials on Implementing H 4550

Chapter 304 of the Acts of 2004 (An Act Relative to Fire Safety In The Commonwealth) requires, among other things, the possible retrofit of sprinklers in many buildings that may be classified as bars, nightclubs, discotheques, dancehalls, and similar facilities. The law requires such building owners to file plans within 18 months of the effective date (11-15-04) and full compliance within 3 years of said date (11-15-07). Under the new law, the Sprinkler Appeals Board has the authority to hear appeals regarding the new law and may also issue interpretations of the law. It is anticipated that the Appeals Board will soon issue a set of interpretations regarding the new law, particularly with respect to the definitions of bars, nightclubs, discotheques, dance halls and similar establishments. In order to avoid any unnecessary effort, it is suggested that

you delay your building inventory review until guidance is issued by the Appeals Board.

Additionally, the new law calls for a joint fire/building inspection and certification as prescribed by the BBRS as a precondition to the issuance or retention of an "on the premises" liquor license by the state's ABCC. Currently the Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) is working in conjunction with the fire service to create the uniform inspection/certification document to be signed by both the building inspector and the head of the fire department. The liquor license renewal procedures will not be completed or applicable in time for this year's December deadline. The procedures will be in place for next year's licensing cycle. ♦

## Revised Guidelines for Self-Service Mode Motor Fuel Facility Applications

The Office of the State Fire Marshal has issued guidelines it will use when reviewing applications for self-service motor fueling facilities as provided in 527 CMR 5.08(5), effective for plans received by this office on or after November 1, 2004.

The following is the process for approval of self-serve motor fuel facilities:

1. Applicant submits four sets of plans to the head of the fire department for review and approval.
2. The chief or designee reviews the plans for accuracy, compliance with 527 CMR, and any local rules or regulations. The chief or designee should list any local requirements on all four sets of plans. Once the chief or designee is satisfied that the plans are

in compliance, they should be signed and returned to the applicant.

3. The applicant forwards the plans to the Office of the State Fire Marshal for review.
4. Upon approval one set of approved plans is forwarded to the fire department with an approval letter. One set of plans is retained by this office and two sets are returned to the applicant.
5. Upon completion of the self-serve facility, the fire department is requested to inspect the facility and forward a signed copy of the approval letter to this office.

If you have any questions, please contact Compliance Officer David Beaudin at 413-587-3181. ♦

## Water Connection Fees

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the financial impact that it would have on the regulated community, 5 or 6 venues alone in my community of 7 square miles.

In an effort to reduce the impact on these business owners and fraternal organizations I decided to approach the Public Works Commission in town to discuss the "System Development Charges" (water connection fees). I was put on their agenda and made a presentation regarding the issues. The Commission voted unanimously to exempt all commercial buildings and places of public assembly in existence prior to February 1, 2000 from "System Development Charges" relative to the installation of automatic sprinklers for fire protection.

This move will save the venue owners thousands of dollars and perhaps make the implementation of this landmark legislation a little more palatable and less controversial. ♦

## UL Notifies Consumers Hand Lamps Cause Shock

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. says it is notifying consumers that portable hand lamps manufactured by Ho Wah Genting Kintron may pose a risk of electric shock.

Name of Product: Portable Hand Lamp, Models C and D

Units: Unknown quantity

Manufacturer: Ho Wah Genting Kintron SDN, Kedah Darulaman Malaysia

Date of Manufacture: Manufactured from February 1998 to February 2004. The date of manufacture is identified

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# NEWS FROM CPSC

The following are excerpts from press releases issued by the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission (CPSC) regarding products recalled for fire or burn hazards. Consumers should immediately stop using any of these products and contact the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission or the manufacturer for instructions on how to proceed. The web address is [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).



May 3, 2004 - Release # 04-131

## **Fluke Corp. Announce Recall of Electrical Testing Components**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04131.html>



May 11, 2004 - Release # 04-133

## **E & B Giftware LLC Announce Recall of Universal Electric Outlet Adaptor Plugs**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04133.html>



May 18, 2004 - Release #04-138

## **Kmart Corp. Announce Recall of Martha Stewart Everyday(r) Safety Matches**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04138.html>



May 18, 2004 - Release #04-139

## **Genan Import Inc. Announce Recall of Kinetic Lighting Pictures**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04139.html>

May 19, 2004 - Release # 04-140

## **Great Gifts Inc. Announce Recall of Snowmen Holiday Lamps**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04140.html>

May 20, 2004 - Release # 04-141

## **Portable Generator Death Reports Double: CPSC Staff Discusses Ways to Reduce Carbon Monoxide Poisoning Deaths**

[www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/portgen.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/portgen.html)

May 27, 2004 - Release # 04-146

## **Pier 1 Imports Announce Recall of Tea Light Candleholders**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04146.html>

Model #314  
Twin Turbo 2800



May 27, 2004 - Release # 04-147

## **Turbo Power Inc. Announce Recall of Electric Hand-held Hair Dryers**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04147.html>

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# CPSC News

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*June 3, 2004 - Release # 04-150*

## **Marukyo USA Announce Recall of Hair Dryers**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04150.html>



*June 8, 2004 - Release # 04-152*

## **Targus Announce Recall of International Plug Adapters**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04152.html>



*June 8, 2004 - Release # 04-154*

## **Dynamic Cooking Systems Announce Recall of Self-Cleaning Wall Ovens**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04154.html>

*June 10, 2004 - Release # 04-157*

## **SMC and Home Depot Announce Recall of Oscillating Fans**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04157.html>



*June 15, 2004 - Release # 04-159*

## **Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. Announce Recall of Slow Cookers**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04159.html>

*June 15, 2004 - Release # 04-160*

## **Associated Electrics Inc. Announce Recall of Battery Chargers for Radio Control Race Cars**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04160.html>

*June 15, 2004 - Release # 04-161*

## **Basler Electric Co. and Lutron Electronics Announce Recall of Power Supply Units**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04161.html>

*June 16, 2004 - Release # 04-162*

## **Linn Inc. Announce Recall of Power Amplifiers for Sound Systems**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04162.html>

*June 25, 2004 - Release # 04-170*

## **American Promotional Events Inc. Announce Recall of Fireworks**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04170.html>

*June 29, 2004 - Release # 04-171*

## **Echo Inc. Announce Recall of Gas-Powered Hand Tools**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04171.html>

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04198.html>

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*July 13, 2004 - Release # 04-175*

**Elkay Manufacturing Co. Announce Recall of Bottled Water Coolers**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04175.html>



*July 14, 2004 - Release # 04-178*

**NETGEAR Inc. Announce Recall of Wall Plug Ethernet Bridges**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04178.html>

*July 15, 2004 - Release # 04-180*

**Snow Peak USA, Inc., Announce Recall of Gas Camping Stoves to Replace Pumps**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04180.html>

*July 16, 2004 - Release # 04-181*

**Stratton Tells Congress New Draft Fire Regulations Ready For Commission Review This Fall**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04181.html>

*July 23, 2004 - Release # 04-186*

**Classic Concepts and Pottery Barn Announce Recall of Flammable Rugs**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04186.html>

*August 3, 2004 - Release # 04-191*

**Vornado Air Circulation Systems Announce Recall of Portable Electric Heaters**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04191.html>

*August 4, 2004 - Release # 04-192*

**Osram Sylvania Products Inc. Announce Recall of Decorative Light Bulbs**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04192.html>



*August 5, 2004 - Release # 04-193*

**The Holmes Group Inc. Announce Recall of Slow Cookers**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04193.html>

*August 13, 2004 - Release # 04-198*

**Vaxcel International Co. Ltd. Announce Second Recall of Ceiling Fans**



*August 19, 2004 - Release # 04-201*

**Apple Announce Recall of PowerBook Computer Batteries**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04201.html>

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*September 2, 2004 - Release # 04-207*

### **Target Announce Recall of Electric Scooters**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04207.html>

*September 7, 2004 - lease # 04-211*

### **Lexmark International Inc. Announce Recall of Laser Printers**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04211.html>

*September 30, 2004 - Release #04-229*

### **Goodman Company, L.P. Announce Recall of Amana, Trane, and American Standard Brand Package Terminal Air Conditioners/Heat Pumps**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml04/04229.html>

*October 06, 2004 - Release #05-002*

### **New York Zion Trading Corp. Announce Recall of Electric Fans**

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml05/05002.html> ♦

## **Smoke and Heat Detector Requirements for One and Two Family Homes**

*September 1, 2004*

The installation of fire detection systems in new one and two family homes is controlled by the State Building Code, 780 CMR 3603.16, which specifies where and when detection is required in new one and two family homes. The reference standard, NFPA 72 - 2002 edition, specifies the manner in which the prescribed detection is to be installed.

The State Building Code does not require the installation of heat detectors anywhere within a one or two family home or garage. The fire official is requested to sign off on certificates of occupancy for one and two family homes based upon the detection requirements outlined in the State Building Code.

The OSFM constantly receives calls regarding these requirements for the new construction of one and two family homes. It is our opinion that a certificate of occupancy cannot be held up by the fire official for the lack of installation on non required detectors. If the appropriate system has been installed in accordance with the state building code there is no legal reason the local fire department has to hold up or stop the certificate of occupancy from being issued. The use of additional detectors is up to the property owner, who may choose to install and utilize heat detectors or other detectors in accordance with their listings. The refusal to sign off on detection requirements for one and two family homes can be appealed to the State Building Code Appeals Board in accordance with MGL c. 148, §26B.

### **Requirements under MGL c. 148, §26F**

We often receive requests for clarification under MGL c. 148, §26F as to what existing one or two family homes need to comply with in order for this

certificate to be legally issued.

The OSFM has taken the following position:

- (1) homes built prior to 1975 are required upon sale or transfer to comply with the requirements of MGL c. 148, §26E(A); and
- (2) homes built after 1975 are required upon sale or transfer to comply with the State Building Code in effect at the time of construction.

In order to provide further clarification, homes built between 1975 and 1998 are required to have hard wired interconnected smoke detectors outside the bedrooms and one detector on each floor at the top of the stairs (the detector at the top of the stairs can be the same detector required outside the bedroom).

For homes built after 1998, smoke detectors are required to be interconnected and have a battery backup. Smoke detectors are required in each bedroom, outside the bedroom and at the top of each flight of stairs. A single detector can satisfy multiple location requirements, if sited properly. There must also be one smoke detector on each level and one smoke detector for each 1,200 square feet of living space.

If you have any questions contact our Technical Services Unit at 978-567-3375 or in Western MA at 413-587-3181.

Our web site is [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). ♦



# MFIRS CORNER

## Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System

### Sending MFIRS Data Electronically for the First Time

The email address to send your reports to is: [MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us](mailto:MFIRS.Report@state.ma.us). One or two days after your first submission via email please call Derryl Dion at (978) 567-3382 to confirm its receipt.

### 2003 MFIRS Reporting

Our staff is currently analyzing the 2003 MFIRS data. 359 out of 365, or 98%, of the fire departments in Massachusetts fulfilled their statutory requirements to MFIRS. This is a high compliance rate, however, it is not 100%. Let's strive for 100% compliance with MFIRS in 2004. **MFIRS compliance will be a condition of the Firefighting Equipment Grant or the Student Awareness of Fire Education Programs.**

### Statistical Reports

#### 2002 MFIRS Annual Report

*The Massachusetts Fire Problem: 2002 Annual Report of the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System* has been printed. One copy has been sent to every fire department in the state. If you need additional copies contact the Fire Data Unit or you may go on line and download it in a PDF format at [www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/firedata/mfirs/](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/firedata/mfirs/)

[index.htm](#).

#### 2003 M-BIRS Annual Report

The *2003 Annual Report of the Massachusetts Burn Injury Reporting System* is also available on line at [www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/firedata/mbirs/index.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/firedata/mbirs/index.htm). It is also in a PDF format.

### Quality Control & Feedback Reports

To help you get us the best quality data, we have recently sent each chief a series of feedback and quality control reports based on the MFIRS data the fire department submitted from January through August for the calendar year 2004. Each department may receive one or more of these 11 reports:

#### 2004 Incident Submission by Month

This report lists the number of incidents that your department reported to the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) for each month in 2004. This is the one report that every department will receive. If your report has 0's for these totals then we do not have any records for those months.

#### 2004 Fires by Incident Type

This report lists the number of fires that your department reported to this office in 2004. It is broken down by the Incident Type categories and lists the number of fires, the number of fire service deaths and injuries, the number of civilian deaths and injuries and the total dollar loss for that Incident Type.

#### 2004 Structure Fires With Incorrect or No Property Use

Any incident with an Incident Type code between 111 and 129 is considered a structure fire, and the fire needs to have been in or on the building or structure. All of these incidents need to

have a Property Use code between 100 and 926. For example, a building cannot have a Property Use of 931 – Open land or field, 937 – Beach, or 962 – Residential street, road or driveway. Any fires that occur outside need to have an Incident Type code of 100 or between 140 and 173. Outside trash fires should have an Incident Type code between 150 and 159 (Like the Incident Type = 118, they also do not require a completed Fire Module). Outside cooking fires should have an Incident Type code of 160.

#### Electrical Fires with No Equipment Involved

These incidents have had the Factors Contributing to Ignition coded in the 30 series – Electrical failure, malfunction, other or 54 – Equipment overloaded. In every case some piece of equipment had to have failed, malfunctioned, caused the short circuit or arc or overloaded. The Equipment Involved in Ignition and the accompanying fields, Power Source and Portability, need to be completed by some code other than None (which is contradictory) or being left blank. In v5 the wiring is considered to be equipment (Equipment Involved = 210 – 214).

#### 2004 Civilian Casualties Modules with Missing Data for Critical Fields

This report comprises a list of fields that have been left blank on the Civilian Fire Casualties that you have reported to MFIRS. Although these fields are not mandatory to complete in NFIRS, in Massachusetts we discovered that to take full advantage of the new version 5 fields and to get a better understanding of how and why people are injured in fires, we need to have all

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## MFIRS

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of these fields completed. So take the time and complete these fields.

### **2004 Fire Service Casualties Modules with Missing Data for Critical Fields**

The last report comprises a list of fields that have been left blank on the Fire Service Casualties that you have reported to MFIRS. For the same reasons given above, we need all of these fields populated to get a more complete picture of how and why firefighters are being injured.

### **2004 Arson Fires by Incident Type**

This report lists the number of arsons that your department reported to this office in 2004. It is also broken down by the Incident Type categories and lists the number of fires, the number of fire service deaths and injuries, the number of civilian deaths and injuries and the total dollar loss for that Incident Type.

### **Definition of Arson**

In MFIRS v5 a fire is considered arson if the Cause of Ignition (Fire Module) = 1 (Intentional) and the Age of Person (Fire Module) is greater than 17 or if the field is blank; or if the Wildland Module is used (in place of the Fire Module), the Wildland Fire Cause = 7 (Incendiary) and the Age of the Person (Wildland Module) is greater than 17 or if the field is left blank.

### **2004 Fires Under Investigation**

This lists the fires that were reported during 2004 with a Cause of Ignition (Fire Module) as Cause Under Investigation. These reports should be updated as soon as a determination is made as to whether the cause of ignition was intentional, unintentional, an act of nature, failure of equipment

or heat source or whether the cause is undetermined after investigation. If you do not receive this report it is because you do not have any fires with a Cause Under Investigation.

### **2004 Juvenile-set Fires Missing the Arson/Juvenile Firesetters Module**

This report lists all of the fires reported as being set by persons under the age of 18 and there is either a blank Arson/Juvenile Firesetters module or no module at all. It lists the incident date, number, address, and incident type. Please complete these modules and submit them as soon as possible.

In Massachusetts, if a fire is believed to have been started by a person under the age of 18, the juvenile firesetter section of the Arson/Juvenile Firesetter module must be completed, attached to the incident report and forwarded to this office. For those of you using MFIRS software, most companies do not make it a mandatory requirement but it still must be completed.

### **2004 Arson Fires Missing the Arson/Juvenile Firesetters Module**

This report lists all of the fires reported as being intentionally set and there is either a blank Arson/Juvenile Firesetters module or no module at all. It lists the incident date, number, address, and incident type. Please complete these modules and submit them as soon as possible.

In Massachusetts if a fire is considered to be arson (intentionally set), it is mandatory that the arson portion of the Arson/Juvenile Firesetter Module be completed. For those of you using MFIRS software, most companies do not make it a mandatory requirement but it still must be completed.

### **2004 Incidents Returned to Department Corrected Forms Not Received by DFS**

This report lists all the paper incident reports that were returned to your department because of missing or incorrect data and the forms with the corrections and/or changes were never received back by this office. It lists the incident date and number and the date we returned it to your department. It also lists the form/module that had the missing or incorrect data. Please make the appropriate corrections or changes to these reports and resubmit them as soon as possible.

## MFIRS v5 Coding Tips

Fall is here and winter is close behind. Citizens will be turning on the heat so expect heating related incidents to increase. Here are a few coding tips:

### **Confined Building Fires**

These are fires in structures that were confined to their noncombustible containers. If you have one of these incidents the only module you have to complete is the Basic Module.

### **Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction**

If the fire is contained to the fuel burner/boiler you would code it as an Incident Type = 116 – Fuel Burner/Boiler Malfunction, Fire Confined. If you have one of these incidents the only module you have to complete is the Basic Module.

### **Chimney or Flue Fire**

If the fire is contained to the chimney or flue you would code it as an Incident Type = 114 – Chimney or Flue Fire, Contained to Chimney or Flue. If you have one of these incidents the only module you have to complete is the Basic Module.

*Continued to next page*

## MFIRS

*Continued from previous page*

### **Non-Confined Building Fires**

These are fires in structures that were started by heating equipment. If you have one of these incidents you must complete a Basic Module, Fire Module and Structure Fire Module (Page 2 of the Fire Module). The Incident Type would be 111-112 or 120-123 depending on the situation found at the scene.

Note: These are not the only fields that you have to complete. You must still complete all of the other required fields on the Basic, Fire and Structure Fire Modules.

The Heat Source codes would be between 10 and 13 or 43 for wood/coal burning stoves and fireplaces depending on the conditions at the scene.

The Type of Material First Ignited would be 11-12, 25, 50 or 56 depending on the incident.

Equipment Involved in Ignition would be 120-152 or 100 depending on the circumstances found at the scene. You would then complete the Equipment Power Source depending on the type of heating unit involved. And finally you would code the Equipment Portability field as either 1 – Portable or 2 – Stationary.

Some examples are:

Portable electrical heater ignites bedding in a portable building – Incident Type = 123, Heat Source = 12, Item First Ignited = 32, Type of Material First Ignited = 71, Equipment Involved in Ignition = 141, Equipment Power Source = 12, and Equipment Portability = 1.

Sparks from a wood burning stove ignite the carpeting in the room on fire – Incident Type = 111, Heat Source = 43, Item First Ignited = 14, Type of Material First Ignited = 70, Equipment Involved in Ignition = 123, Equipment Power Source = 41, Equipment Portability = 2.

Kerosene heater ignites an interior wall in a mobile home (being used as a fixed structure) – Incident Type = 121, Heat Source = 12, Item First Ignited = 15, Type of Material First Ignited = 65, Equipment Involved in Ignition = 141, Equipment Power Source = 33, Equipment Portability = 1.

### **Car Fires Inside of Structures**

According to the USFA if you have a motor vehicle fire inside of an enclosed structure (garage), and the fire does not extend beyond the original vehicle, you would code this as a motor vehicle fire – Incident Type = 131 and complete all of the necessary fields.

If the fire or smoke damage does extend to the structure then you would code it as an Incident Type = 111, and complete the Mobile Property Involved – Section H of the Fire Module. In this instance the motor vehicle is treated as contents like an appliance.

### **Outside Rubbish Fires**

Many department have submitted incidents with an Incident Type = 118 – Trash or rubbish fire, confined, only to give a Property Use that was not a type of building. Incident Types 110 through 129 may only be used if the fire occurred inside a building. If the rubbish fire occurred outside of the building, the correct code would be an Incident Type between 150 and 155 – Outside rubbish fires, a completed Basic Module is all that is needed for these incident types. ♦

## **Women in the Fire Service Announce 2005 Conference**

Women in the Fire Service have announced that the 11th International Conference of Fire Service Women will be held at the Bethesda North Marriott and Conference Center in Montgomery County, Maryland (just north of Washington, D.C.), March 29-April 3, 2005. . ♦

## Hand Lamps

*Continued from page 4*

by a date code stamped on the handle. The code could consist of three or four digits representing the year and month of manufacture (for example, 9910 represents October 1999). The date code could also consist of six digits with the second and third digits representing the week and the last two digits representing the year (for example, C52M-01 represents the 52nd week of 2001).

Hazard: These portable hand lamps may present an electric shock hazard as a result of reduced spacings between internal electrical components. These lamps are not authorized to bear the UL Mark.

Identification: The lamps can be identified by “Model C” or “Model D” along with the UL File Number “E190045” marked beneath the ground contact of the receptacle. The lamps have a brown or black two-piece handle with a mounting hook located beneath it and a convenience receptacle

*Continued on page 15*





## Hazardous Devices Unit Launches Kids in Danger Project with a Real Bang!

The loud rumbles and occasional “booms” that filled the air in Maynard on the morning of August 19, 2004 weren’t the usual herald of a summer thunderstorm. They were the result of a demonstration of what can happen when another force of nature, namely curiosity, collides with the rapidly moving flow of information via the Internet. There were detonations of the kinds of bombs and explosive devices made most often, and on an ever-increasing basis, by teenagers. But this time, it wasn’t the work of bored kids looking for some summer excitement. It was serious work, by the State Police Hazardous Devices Unit (aka Bomb Squad), and it had a very clear and important purpose: educating parents.

The explosions, courtesy of the Hazardous Devices Unit (HDU) were all part of a comprehensive awareness campaign, called *Kids in Danger* that is being launched this fall by a partnership of state, regional and non-profit

agencies, under the coordination of the Massachusetts Coalition for Juvenile Firesetter Programs. The coalition, an umbrella organization for the over 600 private and public agencies and departments that work collaboratively to manage services for children and families, is the primary advocacy group for this issue in the Commonwealth. The coalition has been relying on the expertise of the Massachusetts State Police in the State Fire Marshal’s Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit to make this educational point. The pioneering work over the past decade was featured in a PBS documentary produced this fall, entitled *Wall of Fire*, which was recently honored with an Emmy Award as the Best Documentary Educational Film. That same production company was on hand Thursday morning to capture the destructive force of these explosive devices with high definition video equipment. The documentary they are producing for HD Television Network will focus on the efforts underway in Massachusetts to more effectively deal with one of the fastest rising problems confronting public safety officials in the US today.

The Kids in Danger Project entails more than just a day at the rod and gun club with a film crew. It has four main components, all of which have been in the planning

and development stages since last November. The Research component tracks incidents in Massachusetts and across the United States, using the power of internet search and data base systems to monitor incidents and compile information that can help shape our understanding of this problem and the ways in which we respond to it.

The **React** component links the resources of the HDU, the Massachusetts

State Police in the State Fire Marshal’s Office, and the state’s juvenile justice system, with the assessment and treatment resources arrayed throughout the coalition.

The **Respond** component is pilot testing innovative educational intervention units that can channel and redirect youthful curiosity into more constructive (and safer) directions. Currently the coalition is the only program in the country to provide direct intervention for bomb making youth. The work of this stage, once it is carefully evaluated, will help programs across the country develop a similar capacity to work with youth who are currently faced with only one treatment alternative: jail.

The **Reach-Out** component utilizes the power of the Internet to supply information, but this time it’s not the kind of information that enables bored teenagers to learn the recipes for Napalm or teaches them how to build a bomb from common household



Trooper Eric Gahagan



Hazardous Devices Technicians Observe Demo

*Continue on next page*

## Kids in Danger

*Continued from previous page*

items. This time, it's the kind of information that alerts parents and teachers to the scope of the problem and to the common warning signs. It arms them with the information they need to recognize a problem before it literally explodes under their very noses. By visiting the coalition's web site, "<http://www.kidsandfire.net>," [www.kidsandfire.net](http://www.kidsandfire.net), people can download fact sheets, guidelines, recommended resources and training materials. In the coming months, they will also be able to add data from local incidents to a web-based interactive data collection and analysis program. Finally, they will be able share their experiences, ask an expert for advice or just browse for programs in their region that are addressing this problem.

The **Reach-Out** component includes the Kids in Danger Media Alert Summaries, which provide thumbnail overviews of incidents that have happened in the previous month. 10,000 Media Alert Summaries are being mailed to public safety, school and juvenile justice officials nationwide, as a result of the support of the state's property and casualty insurance companies through the Massachusetts FAIR Plan Arson Watch Reward Program. This fall, the HD Television Network will air the documentary on this topic.

Kids in Danger project leaders include: Irene Pinsonneault, Coordinator of the Statewide Coalition for Juvenile Firesetter Programs; State Police Lt Martin Foley, Commander of the Fire & Explosion Investigation Section in the Office of the State Fire Marshal, and State Police Sgt Paul Zipper, Office of the State Fire Marshal's liaison to the coalition. ♦

## Excellence in Media Relations Award

The Fire and Explosion Investigation Section of the Massachusetts State Police received the 2003 Excellence in Media Relations Award at the 10th annual Juvenile Firesetter Intervention Conference. The Fire and Explosion Investigation Section worked closely with the Juvenile Firesetter Coalition in advancing awareness to the general public of the dangers of kids involved with both fire and explosives. These efforts attracted the attention of the national media, specifically, the Wall St Journal, FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, and most recently, PBS.

The members of the Hazardous Devices Unit worked closely with the coalition and were able to convince the producers of this PBS documentary of the seriousness and magnitude of this problem, and as a result, a significant portion of this documentary will focus on kids and fire and kids who make bombs.

Special recognition was given to the Hazardous Devices Unit commanded by Det Lt Francis Moore, Lt Martin Foley and Sgt Chuck Hanko, who were instrumental in facilitating the ability of the coalition to open the eyes of the general public to see the devastation that these problems can cause.

Based on this effort by the unit and the coalition, PBS is in the planning stages of a one hour documentary that will focus specifically on kids and bombs. ♦

**“PBS is planning a one hour documentary that will focus on kid's and**

## Testing Cathodic Protection System – Who is a Corrosion Expert?

In February 2004, Timothee Rodrique, Division Director for the Office of the State Fire Marshal sent the following memorandum to all corrosion protection testing companies regarding certification of cathodic protection system test reports.

This memorandum is to notify and remind those individuals who test cathodic protection (CP) systems of the provisions of 527 CMR 9.00, the Massachusetts State Fire Code, regarding the review and approval of the CP system test reports for Underground Storage Tank Systems.

Pursuant to 527 CMR 9.05(H)(7), all CP design plans, applications, surveys, drawings, test data and results must be reviewed, approved and bear the full name, signature, address, certification number and seal of the corrosion expert.

As defined by 527 CMR 9.02, a corrosion expert is a person who, by reason of thorough knowledge of the physical sciences and principals of engineering and mathematics acquired by a professional education and related practical experience, is qualified to engage in the practice of corrosion control on buried and submerged metal piping systems and metal tanks. Such person shall be accredited or certified as being qualified by the National Association of Corrosion Engineers (NACE) as a Cathodic Protection Specialist or Corrosion Specialist, or be a Massachusetts Registered Professional Corrosion Engineer. The corrosion expert shall follow applicable NACE criteria.

If you have any questions, please call the Code Compliance and Enforcement Unit at (978) 567-3375 or in Western Massachusetts at (413) 587-3181. ♦

## Fire Suppression System in Commercial Kitchens

Having received numerous inquiries from suppression installers, the Office of the State Fire Marshal recently asked the Board of Fire Prevention Regulations for a clarification of 527CMR 10.03(8) relative to fire suppression systems in commercial kitchens. What follows is excerpted from the board's interpretation.

In accordance with 527 CMR 10.03(8), the fire suppression system is to be installed, maintained

and tested in accordance with NFPA 96, 2001 edition. NFPA 96, Section 10.2.3 requires the fire suppression system to be compliant with UL300 standard.

Systems installed to protect kitchen applications after 1995 are compliant with UL 300, and therefore, normal manufacturer's maintenance requirements should be followed. The question really deals with systems installed prior to 1995 and which don't meet UL 300 requirements.

Dry chemical extinguishing systems, are found to be ineffective on cooking oil fires (deep fat fryers). These systems no longer have parts available by the manufacturers and in some cases have been de-listed by Underwriter's Laboratories. These systems will need to be upgraded to a UL 300 compliant system. If parts are available and there are no deep fat fryers, the system may remain in place subject to the system remaining serviceable.

For wet systems installed before 1995 and/or UL 300 approval, it is the intent of the board to allow those pre-UL300 systems to remain in use subject to the following conditions:

a.) There have been no changes to the type of oil used in the appliance (change from animal oils to vegetable oils);

b.) They have not replaced the cooking equipment (bought new energy efficient appliances);

c.) The hazard has not changed (no new equipment added);

d.) The product still has parts available and remains UL listed.

If any of the above changes have taken place, the system will need to be upgraded. However, the upgrade reason needs to be documented. This may take additional work by the servicing company, but they should be prepared to document the reason(s). Companies failing to follow these guidelines are subject to license review under 527 CMR 23 and the Office of the State Fire Marshal. The reasons above do not limit the authority of the head of the fire department to order the system to be upgraded to a UL 300 compliant system, or prevent the owner of an establishment from requesting an upgrade as good fire prevention practice and to limit business interruption. All new kitchen suppression systems currently being installed will meet UL 300 standards. ♦

**“The question really deals with systems installed prior to 1995 and which don't meet UL 300 requirements.”**

## Increase in Recruit Class Size

As a result of the passage of the FY05 budget and ongoing discussions with the Massachusetts Fire Training Council, we are pleased to be able to increase the size of the recruit class from 44 students to 72 students starting with the November 29, 2004 class. The 72 number was determined after much discussion and planning, as it will allow for the creation of different group sizes during various phases of training while maintaining control of the learning process. Fire Academy staff studied this extensively and spent some time at the Fire Department of New York (FDNY) meeting with the department's training officers to observe recruit training of a comparable sized class.

This change is designed to decrease the backlog and the waiting time that departments currently experience in having firefighters admitted to the Recruit Program. Subsequent recruit classes will remain at 72, with the exception of the time that the burn building is being rehabilitated.

The application process was recently changed to accept only “named” reservations. That process will remain in effect for the 72 student class size. To request seats in classes, both the Recruit 11-Week Training Request Form and the Recruit Application Form must be completed with the student's information and returned to the Recruit Department. Fire chiefs are notified approximately three months in advance prior to the start of a recruit class when their staff will be enrolled.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the MFA Interim Director, Richard Farrar, at 978-567-3114. ♦



## NIMS Update

In a September 8, 2004 letter to the governors, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Tom Ridge lays out a series of aggressive initiatives that states should begin to comply with as part of the National Incident Management System (NIMS). Presidential Directives 5 and 8 adopted in early 2003 address the growing need for government agencies at all levels to develop a comprehensive national incident management system that will establish a unified, integrated approach to the federal government's domestic concerns as it relates to all-hazards incidents.

There are six major components which will be integral to the NIMS implementation are: command and management; preparedness; resource management; communications and information management; support technologies; and ongoing management and maintenance.

Ridge's letter further outlines the steps that must be taken, at a minimum, during federal FY 2005 (which ends September 2006) towards NIMS compliance requirements.

State and territory level efforts to implement the NIMS must include the following:

- Incorporating NIMS into existing training programs and exercises;
- Ensuring that federal preparedness funding, including the DHS Homeland Security Grant Program, Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI), support NIMS;
- Implementation at the state and local levels (in accordance with the eligibility and allowable uses of the grants);
- Incorporating NIMS into Emergency Operations Plans (EOP);
- Promotion of intrastate mutual aid agreements;
- Coordinating and providing technical assistance to local entities regarding NIMS;

- Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System (ICS).

At the state, territorial, tribal, and local levels, jurisdictions should support NIMS implementation by:

- Completing the NIMS Awareness Course: "National Incident Management System (NIMS), An Introduction" IS 700;
- Formally recognizing the NIMS and adopting the NIMS principles and policies;
- Establish a NIMS baseline by determining which NIMS requirements you already meet;
- Establishing a timeframe and developing a strategy for full NIMS implementation;
- Institutionalizing the use of the Incident Command System (ICS);

FY 2006 and FY 2007 Requirements:

In order to receive FY 2006 preparedness funding, the minimum FY 2005 compliance requirements described above must be met. Applicants will be required to certify as part of their FY 2006 grant applications that they have met the FY 2005 NIMS requirements. Additional information about NIMS compliance and resources for achieving compliance will be forthcoming from the NIMS Integration Center (NIC). In addition, FY 2005 Federal preparedness assistance program documents will address State and local NIMS compliance. The NIC web page, [www.fema.gov/nims](http://www.fema.gov/nims), will be updated regularly with information about the NIMS and guidance for implementation.

The complete NIMS Awareness Presentation developed through the DFS based on information from the DHS is available online at the DFS web-site [www.state.ma.us/dfs](http://www.state.ma.us/dfs). This website will be updated as further information becomes available. ♦

## DHS Adopts Standards for Protective Equipment

In February 2004, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) adopted five National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards for personal protective equipment for first responders. These adoptions will assist state and local procurement officials in selecting the best available protective equipment. The standards will also provide manufacturer's with requirements for the design, performance, testing and certification of equipment.

The standards, the first of their kind to be adopted by DHS, will protect first responders against chemical, biological and other hazards at emergency incidents.

The five standards are: NFPA 1951, NFPA 1981, NFPA 1991, NFPA 1994, and NFPA 1999. ♦

## Hand Lamps

*Continued from page 11*

located directly beneath the power switch. These lamps may be provided with a silver metal or yellow plastic reflector with a matching guard and mounting hook above the guard. A 15 foot or longer, 16 AWG, three-conductor power supply cord is attached to the lamp.

### **What you should do**

UL encourages consumers to immediately discontinue use of this product and contact the manufacturer or return it to the place of purchase.

Consumer Contact: Ho Wah Genting Kintron, 8F, No. 387, Chung Cheng Rd., Hsin Chuang City, Taipei Hsien, Taiwan. Telephone: +1 886-2-2206-8466; Fax: +1 886-2-2206-8469; E-mail: [johnnycci@kintron.com](mailto:johnnycci@kintron.com).

For more information, contact Joe Hirschmugl in Northbrook, Ill., by phone at +1-847-664-1508; or by e-mail at [Joseph.F.Hirschmugl@us.ul.com](mailto:Joseph.F.Hirschmugl@us.ul.com). ♦

# FIRE AND LIFE SAFETY EDUCATION

## Salute to Young Heroes of the S.A.F.E. Program



On Wednesday, October 13, 2004 the Executive Office of Public Safety held a Salute to our Young Heroes awards ceremony at the State House.

Lieutenant Governor Kerry Healey, Secretary of Public Safety Edward A. Flynn and State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan recognized eleven Young Heroes from nine communities throughout the Commonwealth for their quick reactions and bravery when putting into practice the fire and life safety skills they learned from their participation in local Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Programs.

Local S.A.F.E. educators, fire chiefs, state representatives, family and friends honored the "Young Heroes". Students from the second and third grade from the Fletcher-Maynard Academy in Cambridge also attended and entertained everyone by singing "The Smoke Detector Song" and "It's Great to be a Firefighter". ♦



*Fire Chief George Sweet and Cailon McMahon of Cheshire, S. Coan*



*Sec. Flynn, Rep. Toomey, Lt. Kokernack and Michael Galotta of Sterling with S. Coan*



## S.A.F.E. Funding Restored for FY'05

Funding to support the Student Awareness of Fire Education (S.A.F.E.) Program for fiscal year 2005 has been restored. \$1,078,666 for public fire and life safety education was allocated as part of House 4550, An Act Relative to Fire Safety in the Commonwealth signed by Governor Romney on August 17, 2004. The legislation, also known as the sprinkler bill, was enacted in the wake of the tragic Station nightclub fire in West Warwick, Rhode Island, with the goal of promoting fire safety in Massachusetts.



*Emerald and Amber Kreimendahl and Mansfield Fire Chief Bellavance and S. Coan*



*Secretary Edward Flynn and State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan*

State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan, Governor Romney and the Legislature realized the importance of including an educational component into this landmark fire safety bill. The funding, which will be distributed to communities as part of a statewide grant program administered by the Executive Office of Public Safety and the Department of Fire Services, will enable local fire departments to continue providing fire and life safety education in classrooms to students in grades K-12.

Firefighters, trained as public educators, teach 23 key fire and life safety behaviors to students, in age appropriate lessons. Topics include: Home fire escape planning and practicing fire drills; the importance of working smoke alarms in the home; stop, drop & roll if clothing catches fire; crawling low beneath smoke and dialing 9-1-1 in an emergency.

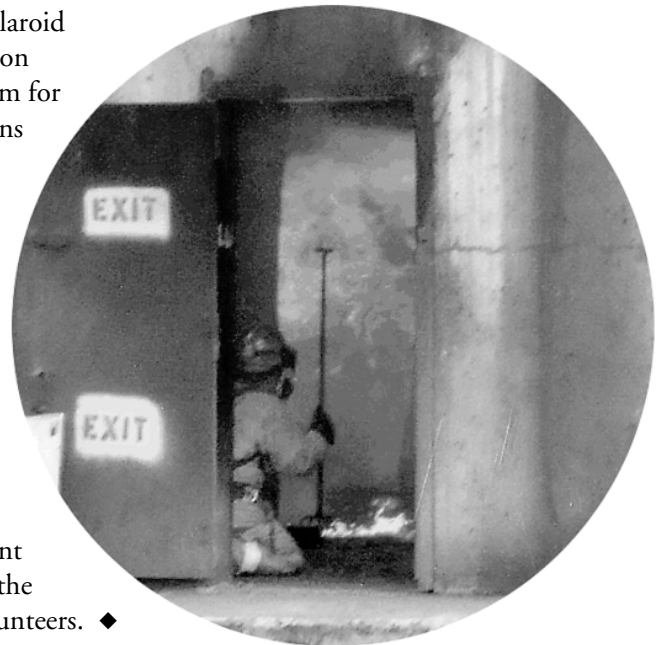
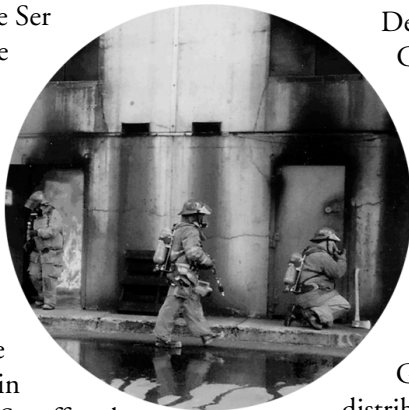
Criteria for evaluating applications and determining grant awards are in the final review phase. In order to qualify for funding all fire departments planning to make application for funding for FY '05 MUST have complied with the conditions for S.A.F.E. Grants received in previous years; i.e. submission of all End-of-Year reports, financial budget forms and program activity sheets. For assistance or questions regarding End-of-Year reporting call Paul Whitney in the Public Education Unit at 978-567-3388. ♦

# 1<sup>st</sup> Annual DFS Open House and Family Fire Safety Day

Sunday, September 19, 2004 turned out to be a wonderful day, both in terms of the weather and the attendance at the first Department of Fire Services (DFS) Open House and Family Fire Safety Day.

Approximately 750 visitors toured the facility, viewed apparatus, watched “live fire” demonstrations, learned about fire safety and participated in hands-on activities. DFS staff and family members welcomed our neighbors from surrounding communities to offer a glimpse of our daily operations. The public was able to see the important role DFS plays in protecting the public, training and supporting public safety personnel and providing fire and life safety education. Children were able to meet Sparky the Fire Dog®, try on junior sized fire gear, and squirt water from a fire hose. Firefighters from several area departments,

trained as public fire and life safety educators, taught children fire safety tips and led them through the Fire Safety House to learn about home fire drills. The Massachusetts State Police was well represented by the Hazardous Device Unit, Fire and Explosion Investigation Unit and the Air Wing helicopter. The Department of Conservation and Recreation’s Bureau of Forest Fire Control displayed woodland firefighting equipment and brought Smokey Bear to celebrate his 60<sup>th</sup> birthday. The Vermont State Fire Marshal’s Office displayed the importance of fire sprinklers in its demonstration trailer. Polaroid Corporation donated film for photo buttons and Papa Gino’s Inc. distributed fire helmets and cookies to the children. Food and refreshments were provided by Sabrina’s Café and Vee Bop’s Ice Cream. The MBTA arranged bus transportation to and from an off-site parking area provided by 577 Main St. L.L.C. The event was a great success thanks to the efforts of all our staff and volunteers. ♦



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Planning is already underway for next year’s open house and State Fire Marshal Stephen Coan has decided that it will be bigger and better.

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## Papa Gino's Sponsored Fire Station Open Houses

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“It’s amazing  
how a slice of  
pizza can  
help...inform the  
public...”

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*Children enjoying pizza at West Boylston open house*



*Future firefighter watches demonstration*



This is the 11<sup>th</sup> year that Papa Gino's Restaurants have supported open houses at fire stations in the communities they serve. It's amazing how a slice of pizza can help give us an opportunity to inform the public about how the fire service protects the community and to educate the public on what they can do to enhance their own fire and life safety. This year over 80 fire departments in Massachusetts alone conducted open houses with a little help from Papa Gino's. ♦

# 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference

## **U.S. Fire Administrator R. David Paulison Delivered Keynote**

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan said he was honored to host the head of the U.S. Fire Administration, R. David Paulison, at the *10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire and Life Safety Education Conference* at the Westford Regency Inn and Conference Center in Westford, Massachusetts.

Mr. Paulison in his keynote address challenged the audience to work to reduce fire deaths among children under five and the elderly, two high-risk groups, and challenged the audience to help send every firefighter home safely at the end of every shift.

Coan said, "We are honored to have such an experienced leader in the fire and life safety education as David Paulison joining us the first day of our 10<sup>th</sup> conference." Coan added, "This conference always launches fire educators enthusiastically into Fire Prevention Week in early October," added Coan.

Over 250 firefighters, EMTs classroom teachers, school administrators, safety officers, resource officers, nurses, elder service workers, health educators and other injury prevention professionals attend this two day conference on Monday, September 27, 2004 and Tuesday, September 28, 2004. The

conference offered core workshops for new fire and life safety educators, workshops on new ideas, programs and teaching techniques to keep all life safety educators current, and workshops to continue to challenge and develop the skills of more experienced life safety educators.



*Lowell FF Rene Demers, 2004  
Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year*

## **Local Fire & Life Safety Educators Honored**

The *2004 Fire and Life Safety Educator of the Year Award* and Citations from the State Fire Marshal were awarded in a post-luncheon ceremony on Tuesday, September 28, 2004. Lowell Fire Prevention Officer Rene Demers received the top award. He has interacted with over 30,000 children and adults, including school children who have been taught to plan and practice home fire escape drills, crawl low beneath smoke and to meet in a designated meeting place through utilization of the Fire Safety House and a thermal imaging camera. Last year,

Lowell celebrated a "young hero" from its public education program. Fire-fighter Demers successfully deals with the wide ethnic diversity of Lowell's population through partnerships with different organizations in the community such as the Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association. He is also very active in the Middlesex County Juvenile Firesetters Intervention Program.

Citations from the State Fire Marshal were presented to educators from the Becket, Carver, Devens, Easton, Fairhaven, Fitchburg, Groton, Haverhill, Hanson, Hopkinton, Lakeville, Leominster, Ludlow, Lynn, Malden, Mansfield, Mattapoisett, Mendon, Merrimac, Middleborough, North Adams, Norwell, Norwood, Sandwich, Springfield, Sudbury, Wenham West Bridgewater, West Brookfield, Westfield, Winchester, and Yarmouth Fire Departments as well as teachers and administrators from the New Boston Pilot Middle School, the Galvin Middle School in Canton, the St. Pius V School in Lynn, Milford High School, Nantucket Elementary School, the Butterfield School in Orange, and the Fausey School in West Springfield. Members of the Norfolk Firewall Partnership, a countywide juvenile firesetting intervention program and of the Boston Society of Vulcans, a fraternal group of African American firefighters were honored. ♦



*Group photo of citation recipients and the 2004 Fire & Life Safety Educator of the Year with fire officials.  
Center: Sen. Brewer, Lowell FF Rene Demers and SFM Coan.*

# Candle Fires

This is the time of year where we start to see an increase in candle fires. As Halloween, Thanksgiving and winter religious holidays approach, candles are used more frequently.

## **208 Fires Caused 3 Civilian Deaths and \$4.3 Million in Damages**

In 2002, 208 candles fires were reported to the Massachusetts Fire Incident Reporting System (MFIRS). These fires caused three civilian deaths, 20 civilian injuries, 22 firefighter injuries and an estimated dollar loss of \$4.3 million in damages. Over 90% of candle fires occur in homes and half start in the bedroom.

## **Burn Candles Inside One-Foot Circle of Safety**

State Fire Marshal Coan warned, "Do not leave candles burning when you go to sleep or when you leave the room. Candles left burning unattended are how most candle fires start."



## **Candle Safety Tips**

- Burn candles in the center of a 1-foot Circle of Safety, free of anything that can burn.
- Stay in the same room with burning candles; do not leave unattended.
- Burn candles on a non-combustible surface such as a ceramic saucer or plate.
- Be sure to snuff out candles before falling asleep, going out, or leaving the room.
- Teach everyone in the family the rules of safe candle use.
- Keep candles out of reach of small children and pets.

## **December 13 is Candle Safety Awareness Day**

The second Monday in December in Massachusetts is Candle Safety Awareness Day. This bill was initiated by Plymouth school children who wanted to do something positive about fire safety in the wake of the Worcester Cold Storage Warehouse fire. That fire was started by a candle and took the lives of six Worcester firefighters.

For more information on candle fire safety online go to [http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/pubed/flyers/candle\\_fire\\_safety.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/pubed/flyers/candle_fire_safety.pdf)

## **Candle Cause of Fatal Brookline Blaze**

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan announced that the most probable cause of the September 3, 2004 fatal fire at 88 Pleasant Street was an unattended candle. Investigators believe a candle left burning after residents went to sleep ignited the fire. The heat and poisonous gases of the fire killed a woman on the third floor and left a man in critical condition. The Brookline Fire Department and State Police in the State Fire Marshal's Fire Investigation Unit investigated the fire.

## **Unattended Candle Caused Milford Apartment Fire**

State Fire Marshal Stephen D. Coan and Milford Fire Chief John P. Touhey announced that the most probable cause of the October 13, 2004 fire at 27 Shadowbrook Lane was an unattended candle. The fire was jointly investigated by the Milford Fire Department, Milford Police Department and State Police assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal.

Chief Touhey said, "I am glad that no one was seriously injured in this fire. Last week was fire prevention week and firefighters spent time teaching our children what to do when they hear a smoke or fire alarm – get outside fast and stay out! This is a great time of year to make sure your smoke alarms are working and to hold a home fire drill." The noontime fire displaced the residents from all 24 apartment units. Although the fire alarm sounded, not all residents reacted appropriately and exited the building.

Chief Touhey said, "Candles cause fires throughout the year, but more so during the holiday season that starts with Halloween. Fires during the holiday season always seem even more tragic, so please stay in the same room with burning candles; do not leave them burning unattended or when going to sleep." ♦

The **DFS Quarterly** is published every March, June, September, and December. If you have some newsworthy information to share with the fire service, you are welcome to submit articles to: Jennifer Mieth, Editor, DFS Quarterly, Dept. of Fire Services, P.O. Box 1025, Stow, MA 01775. (978) 567-3381 or Internet Address: [Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us](mailto:Jennifer.Mieth@state.ma.us) by the

10th of the month prior to publication.

The **DFS Quarterly** is published by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services as a service to the fire service community. It can be found on-line at [www.mass.gov/dfs/pubs/dfsq.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/pubs/dfsq.htm).

Thank you to Judy O'Brien for keen-eyed proofreading and elegant rewording.

# Unvented Gas Heaters

Vent-free gas products include gas fireplaces and fireplace inserts, gas logs, gas stoves and room heaters. These appliances are called “vent-free” because they don’t require a chimney or wall vent.

The Board of Fire Prevention Regulations, pursuant to M.G.L. c. 148 s. 25A has promulgated regulations to allow the sale and use of permanently fixed, unvented LP or natural gas fired heaters. These regulations are in the Fire Code at 527 CMR 30.00 and only appliances listed in accordance with the Massachusetts Fuel Code (248 CMR) are approved for sale and use in Massachusetts. The Board of Plumbers and Gasfitters has approved certain models for sale. Only these approved unvented gas heaters may be sold. For a list of the approved heaters, there is a link from the Department of Fire Services home page at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs) or go directly to [http://license.reg.state.ma.us/public/pb\\_pre\\_form.asp](http://license.reg.state.ma.us/public/pb_pre_form.asp). If you have any questions, contact your local plumbing inspector or the State Plumbing Board at (617) 717-3074.

## **Regulation Has Safety Requirements**

The revised fire prevention regulation, 527 CMR 30.00, took effect April 1, 2004 and may be viewed online by going to the Department of Fire Services home page at [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). The regulation requires purchasers of vent-free gas products to install and maintain at least one carbon monoxide detector and working smoke detectors throughout the home. Unvented heaters cannot be installed in the bedroom and bathroom. They must be installed in rooms and buildings that have an operable, permanently installed primary source of heat. Sellers of the unvented heaters must provide each purchaser with a copy of the regulation. The head of the local fire department and the local or state gas

inspector shall issue a permit for the installation of these units.

## **Unvented Portable Heaters Still Illegal**

The sale or use of portable unvented gas fired heaters inside buildings used for human habitation is still prohibited.

## **Illegal Heater Sales**

Recently, the Department of Fire Services’ compliance officers have observed non-compliant unvented gas heaters being sold at both Home Depot and Lowe’s stores. Both have been served with cease and desist notices at their corporate headquarters.

## **Permit for installation required.**

The head of local fire department and the local or state gas inspector shall issue a permit for installation of vent-free gas units.

## **Requirements:**

1. Consumers must present a copy of the installation/operating instructions to both the fire department and gas inspector when applying for a permit.
2. Only products approved by the Plumbers and Gasfitters Board may be sold or installed in Massachusetts.
3. The appliance shall be equipped with an oxygen depletion safety shutoff system (ODS).
4. The heater shall be properly sized for the room and shall not exceed 40,000 BTU per room or space.
5. Purchasers must install and maintain *at least* one carbon monoxide (CO) detector in any room or space where a heater has been installed.
6. Any building in which an unvented heater is installed shall be protected by working and maintained smoke detectors in accordance with 780 CMR. or MGL c.148 s.26E.

7. Rooms and buildings served by approved vent-free gas units must also contain an operable, permanently installed primary source of heat.
8. Sellers of vent-free gas products will provide each purchaser with a copy of 527 CMR 30.00 upon sale of the unit.

## **Installation:**

- Appliances shall be installed in accordance with manufacturers instructions by a qualified technician.
- Appliances must be permanently affixed or mounted. **Portable unvented propane or natural gas-fired space heaters are prohibited.**
- Fuel supply to each appliance shall be permanent piping in accordance with 248 CMR. LPG appliances shall be subject to storage requirements outlined in 527 CMR 6.00.
- Proper clearances to combustibles shall be maintained.
- Vent-free gas products may not be installed in bathrooms or bedrooms.

## **After installation, and before operation:**

- Each permit grantor must inspect and approve the installation for compliance with Massachusetts state regulations 527 CMR and 248 CMR.
- The manufacturers instructions shall be left with the appliance and be made available for any public official.
- Any malfunction of an un-vented space heater shall be reported by the owner to the head of the local fire department. ♦

# Licensed Sprinkler Contractors

The Office of the State Fire Marshal and the Department of Public Safety both have received numerous questions regarding licensed sprinkler contractors, journeymen, and apprentices. These licenses are all issued by the Department of Public Safety.

The Department of Public Safety issues three types of licenses to members of the sprinkler industry, which are described below. A license is required when installing any part of a sprinkler system (e.g. pipe, hangers, sprinkler heads, couplings, etc.).

**Sprinkler Contractor (SC):** issued to the principal of the company, and a sprinkler contractor license is required to pull a permit under the State Fire Code or the State Building Code. The permit can be applied for by a person working for the contractor, but a copy of the SC license should accompany the permit.

**Sprinkler Journeyman (SJ):** A sprinkler journeyman must work for a sprinkler contractor. A sprinkler journeyman cannot operate a company and contract installation work.

**Sprinkler Apprentice (SA):** issued to personnel working for a sprinkler

contractor learning the sprinkler industry trade. A sprinkler apprentice must work under the direct supervision of a sprinkler journeyman. Further, MGL c. 146, §85A clearly identifies that a sprinkler contractor may employ multiple apprentices, but only one apprentice can be employed for each sprinkler journeyman, and the apprentice must be under the direct supervision of a sprinkler journeyman.

During the June 24, 1998, meeting of the Bureau of Pipe fitters, Sprinkler fitters and Refrigeration Technicians, the Board determined that there is no restriction on the number of apprentices working under the direct supervision of a sprinkler journeyman on a job site provided that the one to one employment ratio has been satisfied. To provide further clarification, the Board has indicated that direct supervision means on the floor and general vicinity of the work-taking place. For example, the apprentice could not be working on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor while the journeyman is working on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor. In this example, direct supervision would not be satisfied under the law.

The Department of Public Safety and the Office of the State Fire Marshal

take the installation of automatic sprinklers seriously, and we are asking for your cooperation in reviewing licensed personnel during regular inspections. In the event that fire department personnel or local building officials are on site completing inspections, a review of professional licenses should be completed based on the descriptions above.

Further, a sprinkler contractor may employ "non-licensed" personnel to run errands as may be necessary. However, these personnel may not participate in the installation of any part of a sprinkler system (e.g. a person to run to pick up supplies, carry the pipe to the installation point, carry parts, etc. this person may not participate in the installation in any manner).

## **Contact information:**

If you have any questions you can contact the Office of the State Fire Marshal's Technical Services Unit at 978-567-3375 or in Western MA at 413-587-3181. The web site is [www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs). You can also contact the Department of Public Safety at 617-727-3200 X 25208. Their web site is [www.mass.gov/dps](http://www.mass.gov/dps). ♦

Check out the DEPARTMENT of FIRE SERVICES on the web!

[www.mass.gov/dfs](http://www.mass.gov/dfs)





# Licensing Exams

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All licensing exams will be given at the Department of Fire Services, Stow campus, starting at 9 a.m. Arrangements may be made to take the scheduled exams on the same dates, at the same times at the western Massachusetts office of the Department of Fire Services, One Prince Street, Northampton.

## **Cannon/Mortar/ Fireworks/Special Effects**

9:00 a.m. in Room 109

Dec. 8, 2004

March 2, 2005

June 7, 2005

Sept. 8, 2005

Dec. 8, 2005

## **Fire Extinguishers**

9:00 a.m. in the Auditorium

Jan. 18, 2005

April 21, 2005

July 21, 2005

Oct. 18, 2005

## **Blasting**

9:00 a.m. in Room 109

Jan. 13, 2005

April 13, 2005

July 13, 2005

Oct. 13, 2005

The Office of the State Fire Marshal issues licenses to people and companies engaged in fireworks, blasting, explosives, cannon and mortar firing, special effects, special hazard systems and portable fire extinguishers. Information on applications and exam dates to obtain new licenses or to renew existing licenses may be obtained by contacting Joanne Melanson, at (978) 567-3700. Examinations for licenses are held quarterly. Filing deadlines, exam locations, dates and times can be found online at: [http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license\\_exams.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfs/osfm/license_exams.htm). ♦



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE SERVICES  
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